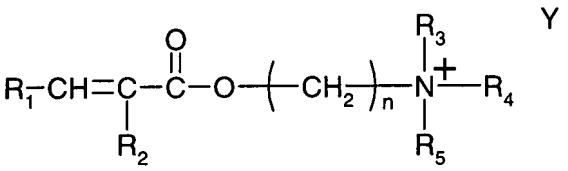
IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended): A cationic liquid dispersion copolymer derived from ~~the~~ emulsion polymerization, characterized in that it consists essentially of

(a) a cationic monomer of formula (I),



(I)

wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

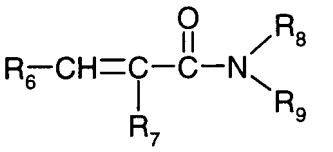
R_3, R_4 and R_5 are independently from each other hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

n is a integer from 1 – 5, and

Y is a counterion,

and

(b) a monomer of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R_6 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R_8 and R_9 signify independently from each other hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_6, R_8 and R_9 is C_1-C_4alkyl,

and

(c) optionally at least one cross-linking agent, which contains at least two ethylenically unsaturated moieties.

2. (currently amended): A copolymer according to Claim 1 characterized in that it consists essentially of

20 – 95 wt-% of a monomer of formula (I) and of

5 – 50 wt-% of a monomer of formula (II).

3. (currently amended): A copolymer according to Claim 1 characterized in that it consists essentially of

40 – 90 wt-% of a monomer of formula (I) and of

10 – 40 wt-% of a monomer of formula (II).

4. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 1 characterized in that the copolymer comprises 50 – 500 ppm of at least one cross-linking agent based on the total amount of the copolymer.

5. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 1 characterized in that

R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,

R_2 is hydrogen or methyl,

R_3, R_4 and R_5 are independently from each other hydrogen or methyl,

n is an integer from 1 – 4, and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogensulfate or methosulfate.

6. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 1 characterized in that

R_6 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

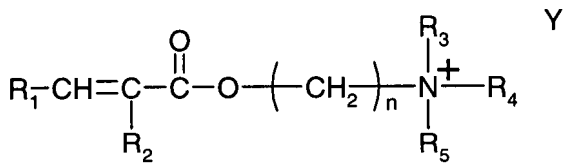
R_8 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R_9 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_6, R_8 and R_9 is methyl.

7. (currently amended): A cationic liquid dispersion copolymer according to Claim 1 derived from the polymerization of

(a) a cationic monomer of formula (I),



(I)

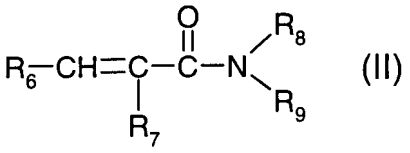
wherein

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are independently from each other hydrogen or methyl,

n is 1, 2 or 3, and

Y is a counterion, and

(b) a monomer of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R_6 signifies hydrogen or methyl, R_7 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R_8 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R_9 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_6, R_8 and R_9 is methyl,

and

(c) optionally at least one cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide,.

8. (previously presented): A copolymer according to Claim 7 derived from the polymerization of

20 – 95 wt-% of a cationic monomer of formula (I),

and

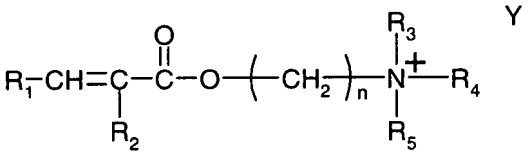
5 – 50 wt-% of a monomer of formula (II)

and

50 – 500 ppm (based on the total amount of monomers) of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide .

9. (currently amended): A cationic liquid dispersion copolymer according to Claim 1 derived from the polymerization of

(a) 40 – 90 wt-% of a cationic monomer of formula (I),



(I)

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen,

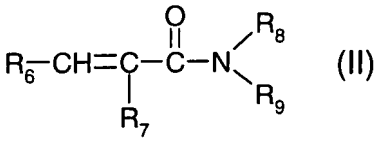
R_3, R_4 and R_5 are methyl,

n is 1, 2 or 3, and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogensulfate or methosulfate,

and

(b) 10 – 40 wt-% of a monomer of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R_6 and R_7 signify hydrogen,

R_8 and R_9 signify methyl,

and

(c) 100 – 300 ppm of tetra allyl ammonium chloride and/or N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.

10. (previously presented): A method of preparing a water- and/or oil-based personal care composition which comprises incorporation of a copolymer according to claim 1 into said composition.

11. (currently amended): An oil/water emulsion-based personal care composition which comprises:

0.5 – 10 wt-% of at least one copolymer according to Claim 1,

2 – 25 wt-% of at least one oil-component,

0 – 25 wt-% of at least one adjuvant and/or additive, and

water up to 100 wt-%.

12. (previously presented): An oil-based personal care composition which comprises

0.5 – 10 wt-% of at least one copolymer according to Claim 1,

50 – 99 wt-% of at least one oil-component, and

0 – 25 wt-% of at least one adjuvant and/or additive.

13. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 5 characterized in that

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is hydrogen,

R_3, R_4 and R_5 are methyl,

n is an integer from 1 – 4, and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogensulfate or methosulfate.

14. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 6 characterized in that

R_6 signifies hydrogen,

R_7 signifies hydrogen, and

R_8 signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R_9 signifies hydrogen or methyl,

with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_8 and R_9 is methyl.

15. (previously presented): A copolymer according to claim 8 derived from the polymerization of

40 – 90 wt-% of a cationic monomer of formula (I),

and

10 – 40 wt-% of a monomer of formula (II)

and

100 – 300 ppm (based on the total amount of monomers) of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.